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and vigor displayed by the Confederates in surmounting the difficulties of an almost unarmed condition and developing efficient mills and factories for making arms and ammunition is one of the most interesting facts in the history of the war. It proved that Southern genius was capable of great things in fields the most unknown. In the fifth article, the tribute of W. Gordon McCabe to Major Andrew Reid Venable, is in the best vein of that admirable writer and speaker. Then Major Thomas L. Broun's "Recollections of the Battle of Cloyds Mountain" is full of interest and worthy of the gallant soldier and noble Virginian that he is.

THE BIRTH OF LIBERTY: A Story of Bacon's Rebellion. By John H. Lane. Richmond, Va.: The Hermitage Press. 1909.

In this work Mr. Lane has essayed his talents in a very difficult plane. One of the hardest things in the world is to write a historic novel. The environments and main events must always be critically correct. It, therefore, makes against Mr. Lane's maiden effort to find him underrating the Cavaliers and accepting the idea that the Virginians of the seventeenth century were illiterate. A cavalier like Col. Guy Molesworth who had received twenty-five wounds in battle fighting for the King might be "poor," but it was morally impossible that he could be worthless. General Lee was poor when the war for Southern Independence closed, but his career of usefulness did not cease. And so illiteracy goes by comparisons, and our people in the seventeenth century were quite as well informed as the same classes in Massachusetts or England. Why, therefore, repeat the old calumnies? We can seldom trust oral testimony, but the story of enlightenment told by the letters, deeds, and wills and marriage bonds cannot be questioned. There were many ways in which the Virginians had the best of the New Englanders. They were more in contact with the better opportunities of the Mother Country. The parishes were continually supplied from England with Oxford and Cambridge graduates as ministers, who taught school. New England, on the other hand, self centered, isolated in spirit and in religion, was woefully deficient in learning and in the refinements of colonial life. Beverley, our historian, is of higher authority than Berkeley, and he speaks of the numerous free schools which had existence in Virginia. But better than any other proof of superior information are the manuscripts of that time, which have come down to us. These, in the general, are much better written in Virginia than in Massachusetts. Mr. Jefferson, writing to Joseph C. Cabell in 1820, declared that the mass of information in Virginia before the American Revolution placed her among the foremost of her sister States.